

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed October 6, 2003. Claims 1-33 were pending in the Application and stand rejected. Applicants amend claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 13-18, 21-24, 26, and 29-32 to advance prosecution by placing these claims in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's indications. Applicants cancel Claims 6, 12, 20, and 28 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Claim Objections

The Examiner objects to informalities in Claims 7, 16, and 17. Applicants have amended these claims to fix typographical errors and thus address the Examiner's objections. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the objections to these claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 4, 5, and 9 to fix typographical errors and thus address the Examiner's rejection. Applicants thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection to these claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objects to Claims 4-7, 9, 12-16, 20-24 and 28-32 as being dependent upon rejected base claims (Applicants respectfully note that the Examiner inadvertently included Claim 17 on the list of objected to claims, but that the "Detailed Action" section makes clear that the Examiner intended to list Claim 17 as rejected under § 103.). The Examiner has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, and if amended to overcome any claim objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants have amended Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 13-16, 18, 21-24, 26, and 29-32 to include limitations from claims that the Examiner has indicated as allowable if presented in independent form. This places all independent claims in condition for allowance in

accordance with the Examiner's indications. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all independent claims and their dependent claims. Thus while Applicants respectfully traverse all of the rejections to the claims under § 103, these rejections are obviated based upon the amendments to the claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,292,515 to Kao, et al. ("*Kao*"), "in view of U.S. Patent 6,226,322 to Mukherjee ("*Mukherjee*"). Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include all of the limitations of originally filed Claim 6, which the Examiner indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 2 and 3 depend from allowable Claim 1. Therefore, the rejection to Claims 1-3 is obviated, and Applicants respectfully request full allowance of these claims.

The Examiner rejects Claims 8, 10, 11, 17-19, 25-27, and 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kao* in view of *Mukherjee* and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,370,187 to Agah ("*Agah*"). Applicants have amended Claim 10 to include all of the limitations of originally filed Claim 12; amended Claim 18 to include all of the limitations of originally filed Claim 20; and amended Claim 26 to include all of the limitations of originally filed Claim 28. These amendments place these independent claims in condition for allowance in accordance with the Examiner's indications. Claims 8, 11, 17, 19, 25, 27, and 33 thus now depend from allowable claims. Therefore, the rejection to Claims 8, 10, 11, 17-19, 25-27, and 33 is obviated, and Applicants respectfully request full allowance of these claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place the Application in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of the Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Although no fees are believed to be currently due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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